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A-Level  
students  
- Page 6

Thursday, August 21, 2014

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AUGUST 21, 2014

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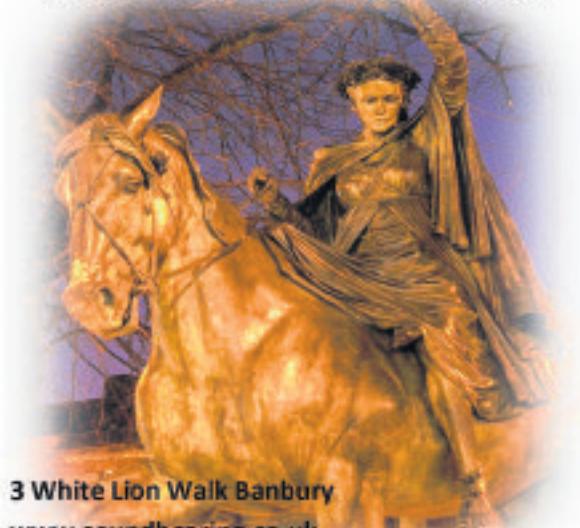
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# 'STAB VICTIM NOT MOVING'

Teenager 'likely to be immobile' at time of incident, court told

By Joe Nimmo

CONNOR Tremble was probably not moving when he was repeatedly stabbed by Will Blencowe, a forensic pathologist has said.

Expert witness Dr Alexander Kolar told a jury in Oxford Crown Court it would have been "extremely unusual" if the 17-year-old's wounds had been caused during a fight.

Blencowe, of Oxford Road, Banbury, admits inflicting the fatal injuries on February 13 this year, but claims he acted in self-defence and denies murder.

The prosecution alleges the 21-year-old killed Connor inside his flat in Fairacres Road, Oxford, because the teenager was seeing his ex-girlfriend, Aimee Harrison.

Answering questions on Monday, Dr Kolar said 10 of the stab wounds were on the back of Connor's body.

He was asked by prosecutor Charles Ward-Jackson if the wounds were likely to have been caused "in the context of a fight", as Blencowe claims.

Dr Kolar replied: "It would have been extremely unusual to get such a cluster (of wounds) all going in the same direction if someone was moving around."

Mr Ward-Jackson said: "Does that mean the deceased was likely to be still at that point?"

The witness replied: "He was likely to be immobile, or in a similar position."

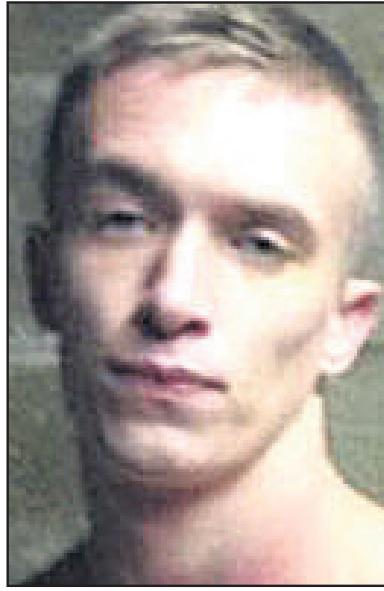
Dr Kolar added that Connor suffered 15 stab wounds and died from complications caused by his injuries on February 15, despite surgery to save his life at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

Last week a defence expert witness psychiatrist, who visited Blencowe in prison after the killing, told the jury he had a history of mental health problems and could not sleep with the lights off.

Dr Michael Orr said the defendant told him he planned to buy heroin in Oxford to kill himself, but stopped off at Connor's flat to "make peace" with him.

He said Blencowe claimed Connor opened the door holding a knife.

The jury heard he told the doctor: "



Will Blencowe, left, is accused of murdering Connor Tremble, right



grabbed his arm. It was like he was ready to get me. I could see the situation but I was an onlooker."

Dr Orr said: "He could see his arm going in stabbing movements."

The witness – who said Blencowe had a borderline personality disorder – added: "He felt he had not killed anyone because 'someone else has stolen my body'."

On Tuesday the younger brother of Blencowe's co-defendant Grant Clemens described handing over his trainers on the night Connor was killed.

Declan Clemens, 19, of Stockwells, Moreton-in-Marsh, said at about 8pm his brother Grant let Bradley Jones and Will Blencowe into their house.

Declan said he heard the shower running and a short time later his brother came into his bedroom and asked to borrow a pair of Adidas trainers.

He said: "(Grant) said, 'I need to borrow your trainers.'

"I said no, and he offered me two (cannabis) reefer for them, so I said yes."

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# Prison fails to get rapist to court on time

A MAN and a 15-year-old boy convicted of carrying out a rape on New Year's Eve will have to wait two weeks to find out their sentence.

Waqas Hussain, 21, of Prescott Avenue, Banbury, and the teenager who cannot be named for legal reasons, were due to be sentenced at Oxford Crown Court on Friday.

Hussain had last month been found guilty of two counts of rape and one of false imprisonment while the teenager was convicted of one count of rape and one of false imprisonment but cleared of another count of rape.

But staff at HMP Bullingdon did not put Hussain on the transport to the crown court and he was several hours late.

Judge Gordon Risius said: "This delay gives me the greatest concern."

"I know that steps are already in place to remonstrate with HMP Bullingdon for their failure to make sure Waqas Hussain was put on the transport this morning."

The case was adjourned until Friday, September 5, at 2pm.

# Police call to identify youth

POLICE want to track this boy in connection with the theft of a bike at Banbury railway station.



The crime happened at about 3.40pm on Thursday, June 19, and British

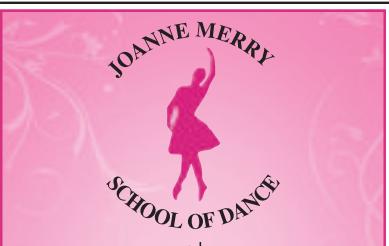
Transport Police first made an appeal to identify three youths last month.

Two of the young men have now been identified but the one pictured above is yet to be.

Sergeant Mark Summerfield said: "I would like to thank the media and the public for their help thus far."

"However, I am still keen to trace and speak to the third youth as I believe he can also assist the investigation."

Anyone with information should call British Transport Police on 0800 40 50 40, or text 61016, quoting reference MSUB/B10.



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# Peeping tom watched customer undress at swimming pool

# Prolific voyeur jailed for spying on women

A MAN with a history of voyeurism has been told "the time has come" for him to understand the seriousness of his crimes.

Philip Harper was last Friday jailed for 28 months for spying on women for sexual gratification.

The 45-year-old, of Edinburgh Way, Banbury, was caught watching a woman in a changing room at the town's Spiceball swimming pool last August. He has 15 previous convictions.

In June, while awaiting trial, Harper was caught standing on a flower pot and looking into the bedroom of a ground-floor flat in Banbury.

By Banbury reporter

Harper, who admitted a charge of voyeurism and breaching an antisocial behaviour order, was told by Judge Peter Ross at Oxford Crown Court:

"The time has come for you to understand that the court will not condone repeated offences of this type.

"This is real, and this is very much the impact that this sort of offending has on people. The fact that you have not touched someone does not in some way lessen the effect upon those who you have spied on."

The court heard a woman had taken

her two children to the swimming pool on August 17, 2013, and while she was changing out of her costume she noticed a man watching her from the gap between the floor and the cubicle wall.

While awaiting trial, on June 7 he was found looking through a bedroom window of a ground floor flat by a man who lived there with his partner.

Harper, who appeared in court via video link from HMP Bullingdon, was sentenced to 16 months for the count of voyeurism at the swimming pool, four months for the breach of his Asbo and eight months for the count of voyeurism in June, to run consecutively.



Philip Harper



Lucy Woodward takes a close look at SpongeBob SquarePants

OX69263

## River plunge family rescued

A MOTHER and daughter were taken to hospital after their car plunged into the River Cherwell on Sunday.

Also in the crash were the father and second daughter, who have now both been discharged from the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford.

The family were rescued by firefighters after their car left the road at Nell Bridge between Aynho and Adderbury.

The red Mercedes car left the road at about 7.15am and fell 10 metres – 33ft – down the bank and into the river.

It took three crews from

Banbury, Deddington and Kidlington to rescue the family from the waist-deep water.

An Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service spokesman said: "The four occupants of the vehicle had managed to release themselves from the vehicle but were still in the water, unable to remove themselves due to their injuries, shock, the depth of water and the steep embankment.

"Fire crews quickly entered the water and effected a difficult rescue faced with waist deep water, challenging access issues and fuel leaking from the submerged vehicle."

# Shoppers see TV favourites

HE usually lives under the sea but children's character SpongeBob SquarePants was on land to meet young Banbury shoppers last Wednesday.

The yellow TV character, who lives in the fictional underwater city Bikini Bottom, was at Castle Quay shopping centre as part of its Fun4Free summer holidays campaign to get more families at the centre.

Salvia Close resident Hayley Anderson, a mum of three, took her four-year-old daughter Lucy Woodward to meet him and shook his hand.

She said: "It's her favourite TV show in the whole wide world and she was absolutely made up to see him."

"She was looking all over the shopping centre and said 'maybe he's still in Bikini Bottom getting changed' because she couldn't find him at first."

Lucy Woodward, who has SpongeBob-themed bedding and a bag, said: "I enjoyed it a lot because SpongeBob is my favourite programme."

The shopping centre will feature a different character each Wednesday this month, with Dora the Explorer and Fireman Sam already planned.

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# Having a flutter at museum

**BANBURY** schoolgirl Jasmine Gili-Stead proudly displays the beautiful butterfly she created at an Oxford museum.

Jasmine was among more than 200 children who made the stunning artworks using recycled materials at Oxford Natural History Museum on Parks Road.

An educational event, held in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, aimed to highlight how people can help pollination of plants in Oxfordshire.

The children, along with their parents, attended the event and learned about mini-beasts and how to make their gardens more

friendly places for bugs to live. They made their winged insects by cutting them out of coloured paper and magazines.

Six-year-old Jasmine gave her butterfly to her mum.

Jasmine said: "I really like making things."

"I like the green colour from the magazine."

Rachel Parle, education officer at the museum, said: "It was a really busy and popular day."

"Some of the butterflies were amazing."

"It was good for us to be able to hold an event that will help the world around us."

The family fun event took place on Thursday, August 7.



## ■ 21-year-old graduates to the ranks of Adjutant General's Corps

# Sandhurst cadet is proud to join Army

By Helen Wright

A CADET from Sibford Gower has graduated from one of the world's most prestigious military academies.

Laura Wealsby, 21, was one of 200 cadets who passed out from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

She underwent 44 weeks of intensive military and academic training and faced sporting challenges.

On August 9 she took part in the Sovereign's Parade in front of the Queen's representative General Sir Peter Wall, chief of General Staff.

Laura, who will be going on to serve with the Adjutant General's Corps, said: "I'm really proud to have passed out from Sandhurst."

"I have always wanted to be in the Army, because I want a long career which has variety and gives me the chance to include sport and travel."

"Applying to Sandhurst is daunting but I've gained a lot of confidence, learnt the ethos of the platoon and made some great friends."

The parade has been run at the end of each term on Old College Square at Sandhurst, Berkshire, for more than 200 years.

At the stroke of midnight at the

Commissioning Ball, which took place after the passing out parade, each newly commissioned Second Lieutenant displayed their rank insignia for the first time.

Brigadier Andrew Jackson, the Director of Recruiting and Training for the Army, said: "The British Army has a long history of recruiting the brightest and best young officers, and Sandhurst is just the start of the outstanding training they will receive throughout their careers."

"Junior officers are given great responsibility early in their Army life, and are rewarded with a challenging and exciting career, both at home and overseas, during peacetime or on operations."



Laura Wealsby

## InBRIEF

### Sewer problem disrupts buses

■ A COLLAPSED sewer is set to disrupt buses in Banbury until August 27, a bus company has confirmed. Routes serving Middleton Road and Ermont Way, including the 200 and 500, have been unable to reach the street because of the problem. A diversion via Concord Avenue and Hennet Way has been put in place, Stagecoach Oxfordshire said. The B7 is operating as normal with slight delays.

### Fire crew helps at crash scene

■ FIREFIGHTERS were called to an incident in Banbury during one of four periods of strike action over the weekend. They attended a three-vehicle accident on Ayno Road, Adderbury at 12.46pm on Saturday. The industrial action was called by the Fire Brigades Union over disputes about pension reform.

### Law firm hopes for award win

■ BRETHERTONS LLP solicitors, based at Waterperry Court in Banbury, has been shortlisted for the CGS Award for Excellence in Conveyancing Practice and Excellence in Client Service, part of the Law Society Excellence Awards 2014. The winners will be announced at the Park Plaza Hotel in London on October 9.

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## Gentle giant ex-teacher drowns in boat accident

A RETIRED Bloxham School teacher described by a former pupil as a "gentle giant" drowned after his yacht capsized off the coast of Ireland last Wednesday night.

Douglas Perrin, 66, who moved to County Cork with his wife Judith, 60, after retiring three years ago, was sailing with two friends when strong winds hit their boat.

Former pupil Roddy Sweetingham, who was taught A-Level Politics by Mr Perrin at Bloxham, said he would be sorely missed.

The 23-year-old operations director, who now lives in London, said: "He was absolutely fantastic, an absolute gentle giant with a very dry sense of humour that you didn't always see coming."

"He got people through A-Level Politics who you wouldn't have expected to pass and we had strawberries and cream at his house at the end of every term."

"He was a wonderful teacher." Mrs Perrin, who taught English at Headington School, was not in the yacht at the time.

It is believed the two friends who were in the boat with Mr Perrin, at Roaring Water Bay, off the coast of County Cork, managed to swim to safety on a small island, before they were picked up by coastguards.

Shortly after retiring, Mr Perrin volunteered to teach English in the deprived town of Jambiani, Zanzibar, with charity Zanzibar Action Project.

Project co-founder Janie Preece said: "He was very clever and I would say he was unusual, because anyone who wants to do what he did volunteering in Zanzibar is a bit unusual."

"He came out and did six months with us just after he retired because I think he felt he was going to miss Bloxham a bit."

"He was an extremely good teacher, everybody who met him liked him."

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Breda Lamb, left, with service users Brenda Stevens, centre, and Iris Appleyard OX69213

# Concerns for elderly lonely

By Alex Wynick

A NEW survey from Friends of the Elderly has found more than 51,000 older people in Oxfordshire are lonely.

The research has revealed 51,824 people in the county over the age of 60 – one in 13 – live without permanent company.

The report also said the number was rising: by 2030, the number of lonely older people in the UK will have increased by 40 per cent.

Breda Lamb is a manager for the Royal Voluntary Service, which can call on 60 volunteers to visit elderly people in Banbury.

She said: "We have volunteers who go into people's homes for an hour a week and just chat with them and help out. They do light housework sometimes, it's just a helping hand. We also have telephone schemes where volunteers call a lonely person once a week."

Friends of the Elderly research found that just under half of Oxford residents said that they have "irregular or no contact" with older people, and the same percentage – 48.6 – feel that they could do more to help.

Ms Lamb said: "We're always looking for more

thing for a long time, but now research has shown the consequences of it.

"It has a serious long-term impact on people's health and life expectancy.

"People who are lonely often have depression, it suppresses the immune system and encourages heavy drinking.

"It's a serious health issue."

He said that it was easy, especially after a change in life, such as a death or illness, for older people to become isolated, and he added that keeping social contacts up was the key to preventing loneliness.

Mr Bottery said: "It's the hardest advice to take, but it's almost the most important: don't wait until you're retired or elderly to start making friends and keeping in touch with your family."

"You should have a group of people that you take with you through your life."

"It's difficult to suddenly pick them up because you realise you'd like to have more social contact."

■ For more about the Royal Voluntary Service, email [oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk](mailto:oxfordshirehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk) or call 01295 264214.

## Apply for a community grant

COMMUNITY projects are being invited to apply for grants of up to £10,000.

The Cake's parent company, Gannett Media, is offering donations of between £5,000 and £10,000 through its charitable arm, the Gannett Foundation.

"Any project which brings lasting benefits to its community is eligible for a grant."

Cake Editor Simon O'Neill said: "We support registered charities that have projects which take a creative approach to fundamental issues such as education and

neighbourhood improvements, economic



more modest applications as well."

Final decisions in respect of the value of the funding will be made by foundation trustees based on evidence submitted.

Charities must also submit their most recent financial accounts.

Applications are open until 5pm on Friday, September 12.

Download an application form from [banburycake.co.uk/gannettfoundation](http://banburycake.co.uk/gannettfoundation).

The completed form and supporting document should be emailed to [gannettapplications@nqo.com](mailto:gannettapplications@nqo.com).

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**InCOURT**

**MATTHEW SHERRY**, 31, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted two charges of shoplifting consumables from the Co-op in Longelandes Way, Banbury, on June 15. Also admitted shoplifting consumables from the same store on June 19. Given a 18-month conditional discharge and told to pay a total of £55 compensation and a £15 victim's surcharge.

**LUKE RANDALL**, 31, of Highclere Gardens, Banbury, admitted criminal damage after destroying a kitchen window belonging to Sanctuary Housing in Withycombe Drive, Banbury, on April 7. Also admitted two charges of assault by beating in Withycombe Drive, Banbury, on April 7. Given an 11-week prison sentence, suspended for two years. Restraining order made. Told to pay a total compensation of £250, an £80 victim's surcharge, and £350 costs. Also ordered to complete programme and supervision requirements.

**JAKE ORWA**, 21, of Harlech Close, Banbury, admitted failing to comply with a direction given by a police officer to leave High Street, Banbury, and not return within 48 hours on June 27. Also admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour or disorderly behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress in Bridge Street, Banbury, on June 27. Sentenced to eight weeks in prison.

**ROBERT BENFIELD**, 18, of Coopers Gate, Banbury, convicted of travelling on a railway without a valid ticket on February 11. Fined £200 and told to pay £4.70 compensation, a £20 victim's surcharge and £125 costs.

**DEAN FLETCHER**, 34, of Dairy Ground, King's Sutton, admitted travelling on a railway without a valid ticket on January 24. Fined £165 and told to pay £4.70 compensation, a £20 victim's surcharge and £125 costs.

**Bus alterations for bank holiday**

**BUS** company Stagecoach has said its services on Bank Holiday Monday will run to Sunday times. All routes will be affected, the firm said, including the Oxford Tube to and from London, and X5 between Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford Bus Company said its city services would run to Sunday timetables, but park-and-ride routes, such as the 300 and 400, would have their own special timetables. Other park and ride services, as well as the Brookesbus and the X90 to London, will run to Sunday times. Visit [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com) or [oxfordbus.co.uk](http://oxfordbus.co.uk)

# ■ Headteacher 'exceptionally proud' of Banbury Academy students A-Level pupils rejoice as their hard work pays off

By Helen Wright

**THERE** were plenty of smiles in Banbury last week as teenagers received their A-Level results.

At Banbury Academy there was a marginal increase in students gaining A\*-B grades but a slight dip in those gaining A\*-E grades.

The 2014 results of 95 Year 13 pupils saw 22 per cent of pupils awarded A\*-A grades, 48.7 per cent with A\*-B grades and 97.8 per cent receive A\*-E.

Last year the school had results of 46 per cent A\*-B grades and A\*-E were 99 per cent.

Pupil Catherine Turvey, from Banbury, got three A\* grades in Psychology, English Language and Sociology.

In October she will be going on to study Psychology at the University of Warwick.

The 18-year-old said: "I was really overwhelmed with the results, I didn't expect to get such good grades. I am really chuffed."

"I was over the moon about it."

"I couldn't have done it without the support of my parents, and the teachers who have been really encouraging."

Josh Boffin, 18, studied Health and Social Care, RE and Sociology and received three A grades.

He said: "I am amazingly proud because this means I have got my scholarship to the University of Sussex to study Sociology."

Halaah Karim will be going to study Politics at the University of Nottingham in September.

The 18-year-old got an A\*, A and a B after taking her exams in English Literature, English Language and History.

She said: "I am quite proud, I wasn't expecting to get those grades. I did better than expected. I think I was predicted AAB. It's great."

Deborah Harris, head of sixth form at Banbury Academy, said: "We are exceptionally proud."

"The number of A\*, A and B grades has increased once again this year, demonstrating the high quality teaching, but most importantly, impressive effort throughout the courses and full preparation for the exams from the students themselves."

"We are proud of every one of our students and the effort they put into their exams."

"We look forward to following their



ABOVE LEFT: Banbury Academy headteacher Emily Gent with A-Level students, back row, from left, Halaah Karim and Catherine Turvey, and front row, from left, Oliver King and Michael Ho. TOP RIGHT: Banbury Academy students Katy Allen, left, and Nicole Clark check their results. ABOVE RIGHT: A pupil celebrates

OX69036

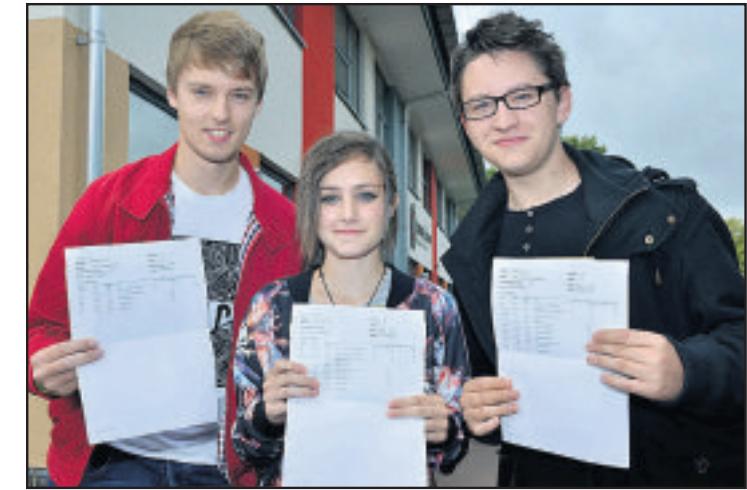


Aden Willson, left, and Caitlin Ryman

future successes in their chosen pathways."

Blessed George Napier School's results were 22 per cent A\*-A grades, A\*-B 55 per cent and 99 per cent A\*-E.

Sixty of their students sat exams this year.



From left: Louis Minogue-Corps, India Ball and Josh Boffin

## Stable results across county

**OXFORDSHIRE** appears to have bucked the national trend as the county's pass rate remained stable despite a nationwide dip.

Indications show results were at a similar level to last year, with about 93 per cent of students receiving two or more A-Levels at the pass rate – grades A\* to E.

Last year this figure was 92.6 per cent, the county council has said.

County councillor Melinda Tilley, the cabinet member for education,

said: "As always, results day represents the culmination of years of hard work on the part of the young people themselves, and the efforts of dedicated teaching staff across the county."

"Parents also play a crucial role in supporting their children through the exam period, which can be extremely stressful, and the achievements of students are always a huge credit to their families."

## Poorer performance UK wide

NATIONALLY, the A-Level pass rate dropped for the first time in more than 30 years.

In total, 98 per cent of exams scored at least an E this summer, down by 0.1 percentage points – the first time it has fallen in 32 years – while just over one in four of exams were awarded an A\* or A grade, down 0.3 percentage points on last summer.

But the proportion of A\* grades rose to 8.2 per cent, up 0.6 percentage points on 2013.

A Department for Education

spokesman insisted that the drop in the A\*-E pass rate was "insignificant".

The latest results show that an increasing number of students are choosing science, with the number electing to study biology, chemistry and physics rising by 2 per cent, while those taking maths has gone up by 0.9 per cent and further maths by 1.5 per cent.

Meanwhile the number studying English has gone down by 4.6 per cent and even greater decreases can be seen in subjects such as political studies, which is down by 10.6 per cent.



Ellie Laurie, left, and her friend Lara Tinant

## ■ Girl's tribute to brother Canoe trip for hospice funds

By Helen Wright

A BANBURY school pupil completed a 50-kilometre canoe challenge along the River Thames and raised hundreds of pounds for a hospice which gave her younger brother end-of-life care.

Ellie Laurie, 13, a pupil at Blessed George Napier Catholic School in Banbury, raised the money for Helen & Douglas House, which cared for her brother Thomas before he died in February.

The nine-year-old suffered from a rare genetic condition called Cockayne Syndrome, a disease that prematurely ages those with the condition and leaves their DNA unable to repair itself.

It affects two in every million newborns in the United States and Europe.

Ellie joined a group of eight other youngsters, aged 13 to 16, including her friend Lara Tinant, who all have siblings being cared for at the hospice, to take part in the challenge.

The group set off from Oxford on Wednesday, July 30, and completed their challenge three days later in Pangbourne, Berkshire.

Ellie, who lives at the Langford Village estate, near Bicester, said: "I wanted to do the canoe challenge to help raise money for Helen House as they provided so much support for Thomas during his life."

"It was an amazing trip. The best part was getting to know the other siblings better and having to work together to paddle the canoes."

So far the group has raised more than £3,000, with Ellie contributing over £650.

Ellie's father Richard said he was very proud of his daughter. The 45-year-old said: "Ellie was an amazing sister to Thomas. She loved Helen House, as we all did for a variety of different reasons."

"First, we went for respite care and later for end-of-life care. The care we received was amazing, and I am sure that is why she wanted to raise money for them."

Andrew Jackson, siblings and care team worker at Helen House, said: "Everyone was so enthusiastic, seeing the challenge through from the planning stage right to the finish.

"I feel really proud of them all. The whole trip was fun, a great team-building opportunity, and they even raised money along the way."

"The funds they have raised will ensure we can continue to provide specialist care for the families and children who visit Helen House."

- You can still support the canoe challenge by visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/HDHsibscanoe>

## Scrap merchant describes ordeal of police sting

A SCRAP metal merchant who cleared his name last week has spoken of the strain the case has had on him and his family over the last two years.

Joey Smith, of Smiths of Bloxham yard, last week had his conviction of dealing with dodgy metal overturned at the Court of Appeal.

He was prosecuted following an undercover police operation which saw his yard raided and him and his colleagues arrested in 2012.

Three other workers had charges dropped

against them and another was cleared after a trial last year.

The 25-year-old, of Milton Road in Adderbury, said the case had caused stress to his family including his terminally ill parents.

He said his 70-year-old father Peter - who had charges against him dropped before the case went to court - was suffering Parkinson's disease and prostate cancer, and his 64-year-old mother Kathleen's breast cancer had returned and spread to her lung during the ordeal.

He said: "The case caused stress on my ill

mother and father for such a long time."

Between December 2011 and May 2012, undercover officers visited the yard 33 times offering metal for sale, which they claimed Mr Smith bought believing it to be stolen.

Mr Smith was convicted of attempting to convert criminal property and given a £1,750 fine, and a £2,500 costs order, after a trial at Oxford Crown Court in December last year.

But last week this was overturned by the Court of Appeal.

Mr Smith, who has always denied the charges, said: "We will try to forget it all."

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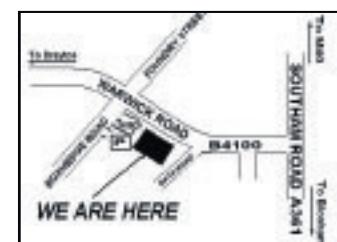
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■ Review of services for people with learning disabilities welcomed

# More cared for at home

THE number of people with learning disabilities who need state-funded help has risen 16 per cent in the past two years, it has been revealed.

Council and NHS bosses were funding care for 2,078 people in their own homes or care facilities in March this year, compared with 1,792 in March 2012.

People supported who live at home has risen from 1,298 to 1,673 in the two years.

Oxfordshire County Council spokesman Paul Smith said: "It has gone up by 16 per cent due to an overall increase in the number of adults with a learning disability and the fact that people with a learning disability are living much longer."

The rise was revealed amid a review of learning disability services, sparked in part by the death of an Oxford teenager in a city NHS facility.

Connor Sparrowhawk died after drowning in a bath at NHS unit Slade House, Headington, last July.

An investigation found his death could have been prevented with more frequent checks on his baths and better overall assessments.

One area the review wants to

By Oliver Evans

improve is the take-up of physical and mental "health checks" with GPs, a move welcomed by adults with learning disabilities.

Banbury's Nigel Taylor, 55, who has cataracts, diabetes and hearing aids, said a health check three years ago proved vital.

He said: "I wish I could have heard of health checks a lot sooner, then probably it would have helped me with my health and made me a lot better."

Wife Tracey, 46, who has mild learning disabilities and is a trustee of Oxford learning disability charity My Life My Choice welcomed the review, being run with the NHS Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG).

She said: "In the wake of the tragic and preventable death of Connor Sparrowhawk, I'm heartened to see that the county council and OCCG have responded positively to the views of people with learning disabilities and their families.

"The challenge now is to turn the plan into meaningful action."

The council and county NHS report to county councillors said: "Local confidence in services provided by Southern Health has



Nigel and Tracey Taylor from Banbury

OX69271

NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Slade House.

The contract runs out in December 2015 for services like home support, hospital and residential care and social work.

A council and county NHS report to county councillors said: "Local confidence in services provided by Southern Health has

been impacted upon by the death of Connor Sparrowhawk."

Helping people with a learning disability and "challenging behaviour" to live in the community is a key consideration, it said.

This is demanded by the Department of Health's Winterbourne Concordat, a

response to abuse of patients at private Gloucestershire hospital Winterbourne View, exposed by BBC TV's *Panorama*.

Services that help people move from a residential setting to their home is not "fast enough", OCCG chief executive David Smith and council social services boss John Jackson said.

## InBRIEF

GCSE pupils to get advice

■ DROP-in sessions will be held at Bicester and Banbury College this week for GCSE pupils unsure of their next step. The sessions will be held from 10am to 4pm tomorrow and Friday at the Banbury campus in Broughton Road. Rose Turner, principal of the college, said: "We know that getting exam results can be a stressful time and we want to help young people make the right choices for their future. "Pupils may have done better or worse than expected, or may not yet have decided what to do in September. The message is that it is not too late to decide or make a change." Independent teams will be on hand to advise students.

## Not guilty of sexual assault

■ A TAXI driver from Banbury has been unanimously cleared of sexually assaulting a female passenger. Altaf Hussain, of Portway, was accused of kissing the woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, on December 16, 2012. But the 50-year-old was found not guilty of carrying out the offence by a jury at Oxford Crown Court on August 7.



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# Police make the grade in fitness tests

**NINETY-SEVEN** per cent of Thames Valley Police officers passed fitness tests this year.

Only 61 officers out of 2,048 who took the tests failed to meet the level of fitness set down by the College of Policing.

**Officers have to be able to run nine 15-metre shuttles in just under 62 seconds.**

A spokesman for Thames Valley

A spokesman for Maricopa Valley Police said: "We are working to support officers who have not met the required fitness standard with the aim of further improving these results, ahead of testing becoming a requirement later this year. Having a high standard of fitness enables officers to perform their frontline duties to achieve the best possible outcomes in reducing crime and protecting the communities we serve."

The pass rate is just below the average for England and Wales, which sits at 98 per cent.

The figures come as HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) launches a consultation on its approach to assessing the performance of English and Welsh police forces. It will give people a chance to have a say on how HMIC assesses how well police forces prove value for money, cut crime and provide a service that is fair and treats people properly.

The consultation runs until August 29. To take part, visit [hmic.gov.uk](http://hmic.gov.uk)

■ Annual festival is more popular than ever as celebrity chefs join

# Food fair is voted



**Michaela Midmore, seven, dad Mark Midmore and Danyl Midmore, four, from Banbury, making pizza**



**Tim Bennett, of Palace Cuisine, with one of his popular Banbury Cakes**

*GREAT* British Bake Off star Kimberley Wilson showed off her cooking skills at the Banbury Food Fair on Sunday.

The baker, who was a runner-up in the 2013 series showed the crowds how to create tasty treats.

Also putting his culinary skills to the test was celebrity chef Brian Turner, of *Ready Steady Cook*, *Saturday Kitchen*

By Helen Wright

and *Daily Cooks Challenge* fame, who signed copies of his books and posed for photographs.

Thousands of people attended the annual event which saw hundreds of local businesses take part.

Produce Show – sponsored by former town mayor and businesswoman Rosemarie Higham – also ran alongside the food fair.

Fruit, vegetables, flowers, jams, cakes and craft items were submitted by local producers and entered into six categories and 93 classes.

After the judges had given their verdicts, the entries went

The banner features a photograph of a man and a woman smiling while sitting on a beach. To the left, the 'Scotts Farm' logo is displayed with a yellow sun icon above the word 'Farm'. Below it, a red box contains the text 'SENIOR CITIZENS DEAL!'. At the bottom left, there are small icons for social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and a 'tripadvisor' logo. The right side of the banner has a purple background with white text for the address, phone number, website, and a red circular badge with a price offer.

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# the crowds enjoying a taste of Oxfordshire upper crust



Sophie Rogers, from Riverford Organics, based in Woodstock

OX68014

on public display and attracted hundreds of admirers.

The food fair was organised by Banbury Town Council.

Town mayor councillor Sean Woodcock said: "The fair is good for the town and attracts thousands of people."

"Last year's attracted around 12,000 visitors and this year – with more stalls, more demonstrations, and more to eat and drink – I think the event is busier than ever."

Other entertainment included Banbury's own version of *Ready Steady Cook* in which three couples competed against each other and the clock to prepare meals from 'surprise' ingredients.

Ella Smart and Daniel Raven, from Banbury and Bicester College, were first up, followed by Andrew Davies and Clive Taylor (*Letterbox*), with mayor Mr Woodcock and his partner Anna Hassell competing in the final heat.

A new attraction this year in the town hall was the Omelette Challenge in which members of the public were invited to make the quickest omelette of the day.

Baker Tim Bennett, of Palace Cuisine in Witney, had a stall at the event.

He said: "We nearly ran out of Banbury Cakes – we only had a few bags left."



A punter tucks in to the food



Kimberley Wilson in action



Paul Barlow-Heal, from Cotswold Baking Ltd

## Number of people unemployed drops

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in Oxfordshire dipped below the 3,500 mark for the first time to reach 3,402, figures from the Office for National Statistics revealed last week.

It's four per cent down since the previous month and a drop of 43 per cent year-on-year, meaning less than one per cent of the county's population is on the dole.

Unemployment among younger people is still a concern, as the number of jobless 18-24-year-olds in

Oxfordshire rose by 10 people between June and July.

But year-on-year, the picture was rosier, with 720 signing on in July, down from 1,275 the same time last year.

Nationally, the jobless total was 2.08 million in the quarter to June, down by 132,000 on January to March and the lowest since the end of 2009, giving an unemployment rate of 6.4 per cent.

Catherine Coughlan, customer service operations manager for Oxfordshire JobcentrePlus, said there were 12,000 vacancies

across the county, including roles in catering, retail, security and hospitality.

She said: "The overall number of people claiming unemployment benefit across the county is continuing to come down."

"Numbers tend to go up a little in July because of the influx of school and university leavers but that has not happened."

"As for the 16-24-year olds who are out of work, they tend to be the ones that need help, so we need to work them more intensively."

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# Richard relishes chance to play Towersey's 50th

By Nick Dent-Robinson

Oxfordshire's Towersey Festival will be celebrating its golden anniversary this month with a special five-day event in its stunning rural setting near Thame. From Thursday to Monday, August 21 to 25, it embraces great music, poetry, story-telling, theatre, dance, comedy, circus, visual arts, film and great food, real ale and cider.

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**NEXT CHAPTER** Positive, endearing and happy-go-lucky Banbury female, 54, divorced, good sense of humour and positive, would like to meet a reserved, mellow man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172352 or send a text to 80360

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**LETS GO OUT** Caring, honest and reliable Witney female, 37, enjoys keeping fit and nights out at the pub with friends, would like to meet a like-minded gent, for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173512 or send a text to 80360

**FRENDSHIP OR MORE?** Friendly Bedford lady, 54, loyal, caring and friendly, enjoys swimming, cycling, cinema and dining out, would like to meet a genuine male, for friendship and romantic times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152922

**ARE YOU MY MAN?** Sincere, 54, year old Bedford lady, 53\*, blonde, slim, enjoys eating in and out, walks, places of interest and swimming. Would like to meet a genuine male, aged 55-58, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173512 or send a text to 80360

**TASTE OF ROMANCE** Shy and sincere Bedford-based female, 45, enjoys all the quiet things in life, now searching for a genuine, faithful and sincere man, to build friendship and loving times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172147 or send a text to 80360

**MAKE A REAL MATCH** Informed, outspoken and stylish Bedford female, 46, would like to meet a tidy, articulate gent, for caring and happy times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171327 or send a text to 80360

**GENUINE PARTNER WANTED!** Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 46, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest male, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360

**CATCH A FALLING STAR** Caring, loving, loyal, 47 year old Buckingham female, 54\*, curvy, brown eyes, enjoy going to pubs, dancing, music, WLM a loyal, independent male, for companionship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165815

**COULD IT BE MAGIC?** Spiritual and genuine Didcot woman, 48, attractive, fun, with grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walks and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828

**WITH OR WITHOUT YOU** Emotional, reliable and sensitive Witney girl, 49, 55\*, enjoy cosy nights in, cinema and holidays abroad. Just looking to meet an independent, reflective gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140276

**QUIET AT FIRST** Quiet, affectionate, black Luton woman, 50, would like to meet a happy, stable, loving man, for companionship and a little bit of romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177102 or send a text to 80360

**SINCERE FRIENDSHIP** Friendly and cuddly, 57 year old Buckingham female, enjoy gardening, going out and staying in. Would like to meet a nice male for company, friendship, in times and maybe a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174367 or send a text to 80360

**FILLED WITH LAUGHTER** Bubbly, caring Oxfordshire female, GSOH, searching for a genuine, nice, caring guy, also with a great sense of humour. 5'10", medium build, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 173593 or send a text to 80360

**SHARE THE LOVE** Straight-forward Aylesbury female, 58, enjoys car boots, walking and all the usual things in life, searching for a normal, friendly man, to share company and a happy future. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 171086 or send a text to 80360

**DO IT TOGETHER** Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150863 or send a text to 80360

**MADE FOR EACH OTHER** Happy-go-lucky Abingdon-on-Thames male, 48, 5'9", medium build, short hair, likes walking, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice woman, for friendship and hopefully more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

**KEEPING WITH THE TIMES** Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 61, 5'6", slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360

**FUN AND LAUGHTER** Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 61, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427

**CHEEK TO CHEEK** Hard-working and happy Oxford male, 52, 5'7", own home, likes socialising, cooking, nights in and good company, now searching for a nice, sincere lady, to share friendship, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

**LOCAL LADY?** Polite, honest, genuine, 61 year old Wallingford male, 6ft, widow, wears glasses, likes staying in, going out, movies and weekends away. Seeks a nice, honest female for company and friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360

**SOON LIKE YOU MATCH?** Cuddly, honest, witty woman, 59, 5'3", N/S, blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153853 or send a text to 80360

**CARING & CONSIDERATE** Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 38, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360

**FEEL THE LOVE** Lively and loyal Oxford male, 40, 5'10", medium build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, dining and more, simply searching for a loving and kind woman, to share friendship and happy times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999

**TIME TO START AFRESH** Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy build, likes cooking, evenings out and all the nice things, now seeking a friendly and faithful man, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

**START LIVING AGAIN** Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 53, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

**THE LONG TERM** Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 62, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to meet a reserved, mellow man, to share the future with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

**CATCH MY EYE** Friendly, fun-loving Geordie female living in Banbury, 62, 5'2", blonde, curly, new to the area, like picnics and days out. Seeks an interesting, outgoing gent, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 169899 or send a text to 80360

**ARE YOU MY MAN?** Sincere, 54, year old Bedford male, 53\*, blonde, slim, enjoys eating in and out, walks, places of interest and swimming. Would like to meet a genuine male, aged 55-58, for friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 175514 or send a text to 80360

**BRIGHTEN MY DAY** Down-to-earth, 63 year old Bicester female, enjoy reading, gardening, rugby, watching sports, eating out, holidays, short breaks, theatre and cinema. Seeks a male for friendship initially. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172910 or send a text to 80360

**A LOVE-LOVING MAN** Out-going, laid-back, 46 year old Oxford male, wear glasses, smoker, enjoy cinema, night clubs, eating out, walks, films and games. Seeks a woman, aged 25-46, for fun, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177345 and enter box number 177345

**THE ENCHANTED EVENING** Intelligent, smartly dressed, 64 year old Witney female, widow, who enjoys socialising, theatre, cinema and holidays. Seeks a male to spend the evenings and weekends with who has similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170119

**DESCRIBE YOURSELF** Fun loving Bedford male, 65, open minded and active, likes cosy times in, social drinks, reading and music, would like to meet a male, for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154642 or send a text to 80360

**RELY ON ME** Happy, friendly, christian woman, 67, enjoys long walks along the coast, puzzle and 60s music, looking for a N/S, christian man, to share friendship and a little bit of romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 149039 or send a text to 80360

**COMPANY AND MORE?** Friendly, honest, 67 year old Aylesbury female, retired, widow, non-smoker, likes holidays and camping. Would like to meet a male aged 60-65 for company, maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 176427 or send a text to 80360

**LUCKY IN LOVE?** Oxford male, 47, 5'9", medium build, own flat and car, genuine, honest and caring. Looking for a slim, mature lady, 50-62, to enjoy days out, seaside and nights in and out together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 160696 or send a text to 80360

**THIS ENCHANTED EVENING** Understanding, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys walks in the countryside, old pubs, fitness, sports. Seeks an affectionate female, 40-50, for a relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170899 or send a text to 80360

**MAKING MY DAY** Laid-back, caring, 47 year old Oxford male, 5'11", slim-medium build, blue 5'11", short hair, enjoy gardening, cooking, sports, walking and the coast. Seeks a lady, 35-50, with similar interests. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 153080 or send a text to 80360

**BY MOONLIGHT** Upbeat and faithful Burford chap, 59, widowed, own home and car, hard-working, loves days out, drives, walks, the countryside and more, now looking for a similar woman, for true company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360

**CARING NATURE** Friendly, adventurous and vibrant Witney male, 68, 5'9", 1st, own home and car, retired professional, loves music, theatre and exploring new ideas, seeks an attractive, feminine lady, to share life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998 or send a text to 80360

**SEE FOR YOURSELF** Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360

**COME ALIVE** Happy, helpful and spirited Bampton/Burford Carterton male, 60, would like a date with a sensitive trustworthy guy, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161452 or send a text to 80360

**DANCE INTO TOMORROW** Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, not smoking, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving and lasting relationship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937 or send a text to 80360

**What happens next?** When someone replies we will send you a free text message to let you know, you then call... 0904 180 0124 to listen to your replies or saved matches. (£1.23 per minute/BT rates)

**SAIL AWAY** Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360

**ANYONE OUT THERE?** Young-at-heart, 66 year old Luton female, would like to meet a female of a similar age for friendship and to go on holiday together this year. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 170118 or send a text to 80360

**DO YOU WANT TO MEET?** Cuddly, honest, 61 year old Witney female, 5'3", blonde hair, likes swimming, the theatre and weekend breaks away, seeking a humorous, reliable male, with similar interests, to share a life together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150863 or send a text to 80360

**MEET AND GREET** Slim, honest Milton Keynes female, 51, 5'3", enjoys keeping fit and all the normal things, seeking for a decent, romantic man, to share loving times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 177247 or send a text to 80360

**LET'S LIVE A LITTLE** Kind, 51 year old Milton Keynes female, 5'3", blue eyes, blonde hair, like going out for meals, cosy drinks, walking and cosy nights in. Seeks a sincere, honest, reliable male to get to know. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 174590 or send a text to 80360

**EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE** Loving, professional, honest Bedford woman, 60, enjoys outdoor sports, singing, the gym and home life, would like to meet a man, with similar interests, for friendship and possibly more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 150736

**TIME TO START AFRESH** Warm and attractive Witney female, 62, 5'2", curvy build, likes cooking, evenings out and all the nice things, now seeking a friendly and faithful man, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360

**CARE AND AFFECTION** Chatty, adventurous, 42 year old Abingdon-on-Thames male, non-smoker, blue eyes, wears glasses, like travelling and heavy metal music. Seeks a female for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 172776

**ALL TO LOVE** Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 54, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

**EVE TO EYE** Honest, caring, reliable male, 54, interests are walking, countryside, coastal walks, animals, eating out, cosy nights in, F1, cooking, DIY, history, architecture, looking for a LTR. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999

**POSITIVE ATTITUDE** Fit Latino male, 63, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460652

**SO GOOD TOGETHER** Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 63, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

**SOCIAL TIMES** Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-on-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360

**LET'S EXPLORE** Abingdon male, 70, 5'9", medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360

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Here's an example of what you should send...

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0800-005-2359 Hi my name is James I've just read your ad and thought I'd say hello

OR

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# Arnie and Sly turn back time for combat mission

**THE EXPENDABLES 3**

(12A, 126 mins) Action/Thriller. Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Antonio Banderas, Wesley Snipes, Dolph Lundgren, Randy Couture, Terry Crews, Kellan Lutz, Ronda Rousey, Glen Powell, Victor Ortiz, Robert Davi, Kelsey Grammer, Jet Li, Mel Gibson, Harrison Ford, Arnold Schwarzenegger. Director: Patrick Hughes.

**F**ollowing a spectacular stunt aboard a moving train that opens this third instalment of the action franchise, Arnold Schwarzenegger turns to Sylvester Stallone and wearyingly confides: "I'm getting out of this business... and so should you."

Sage advice from the former governor of California.

His words fall on deaf ears because *The Expendables* is a cash cow for Stallone, who directed and co-wrote the original in 2010 and has been reliving his muscle-bound glory days ever since.

Australian director Patrick Hughes, who impressed with gritty low-budget western *Red Hill*, takes charge of this outlandish mission festooned with bone-crunching hand-to-hand combat, pithy one-liners and huge explosions.

And *The Expendables 3* certainly opens with a bang. Several.

Barney Ross (Sylvester Stallone) and his crew of battle-hardened mercenaries – Lee Christmas (Jason Statham), Gunner Jensen (Dolph Lundgren), Toll Road (Randy Couture) and Hale Caesar (Terry Crews) – orchestrate a prison breakout.

Their target: original Expendables member Doctor Death (Wesley

Snipes), who has been off the grid for several years.

"I heard you killed more people than the plague," growls Toll Road to his new comrade.

The bolstered team heads to Mogadishu at the behest of chief Max Drummer (Harrison Ford), where a skirmish at the dockyards brings Barney face-to-face with a ghost from the past.

Conrad Stonebanks (Mel Gibson), co-founder of the Expendables, who Barney was ordered to kill, is alive and exceeding well on the ill-gotten gains of the arms trade.

Faced with an adversary, who possesses unlimited supplies of state-of-the-art weaponry, Barney retires the old team and enlists the help of Trench (Arnold Schwarzenegger) and retired medic Bonaparte (Kelsey Grammer) to bring down Stonebanks.

They assemble a fearless younger crew comprising bareknuckle brawler Smilee (Kellan Lutz), nightclub bouncer Luna (Ronda Rousey), hacker Thorn (Glen Powell), weaponry specialist Mars (Victor Ortiz) and infuriatingly talkative former Spanish Armed Forces operative Galgo (Antonio Banderas).

*The Expendables 3* is an entertaining and far-fetched tour of duty that sensibly welcomes fresh faces to the fold and provides Banderas, Ford, Gibson and Snipes with sizeable roles to turn back the clocks.

"I haven't had so much fun in years," cackles Ford, after he lays waste to hordes of enemy soldiers.

The clash between old school brute force and modern day tech savvy provides the scriptwriters with



Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone in a scene from *The Expendables 3*

Picture: PA Photo/Lionsgate

## CakeWhat's on

### Music

**FRIDAY: Horse & Groom, Milcombe:** Kev G kicks off a beer and music festival weekend with covers from the past 60 years. Free entry. 8.30pm. 01295 722142.

**SATURDAY: Horse & Groom, Milcombe:** Crystal disco. Part of the beer and music festival weekend. Free entry. 8.30pm. 01295 722142.

**Littlebury Hotel, King's End, Bicester:** C. Ody. Bringing you the best of '60s to '80s. Free entry. 9pm. 01869 253225.

**SUNDAY: Horse & Groom, Milcombe:** C. Ody. Performing a Bank Holiday Sunday special. Free entry. 2.30pm. 01295 722142.

**The Fox Inn, 27 Enstone Road, Middle Barton:** Laurence. Back to entertain you on a lovely Bank Holiday weekend with tunes from old to modern. Anything from *My Girl to Happy*. 9pm. Free. 9pm.

### Cinema

**Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury:** Please call the cinema for information. 0871 224 4007

### Theatre

**Lady Margaret Hall, Norham Gardens, Oxford:** Until September 13, 7.30pm. Creation's outdoor summer Shakespeare presents *Macbeth*. Performances 7.30pm. £16.50/£22/£27. £16.50/£22/£27. 01865 766266.

### Events

**Barbara Kruger: Modern Art Oxford, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford:** Until August 31. A major solo exhibition of new and recent work by the internationally acclaimed artist. Open 11am-6pm, Tues-Sat; noon-5pm, Sun. Free. 01865 722733.

**Great Escapes!, Oxford Castle Unlocked, 44-46 Oxford Castle, Oxford:** Until August 31. Uncover the funny, the frank and the

downright stupid escape attempt stories. 10am. £9.95, child £6.95, concession £8.45. 01865 260666.

**The Beach, Oxford Castle Quarter, New Road, Oxford:** Until September 15. Thirty-two tonnes of sand, palm trees, deckchairs, volleyball nets, peep boards, and cocktail umbrellas. There will be barbecues, tapas, cocktails, parties, beach games, sunbathing, competitions, and much more. Open daily 10am-10pm. Free. 01865 201657.

**Towersey Festival:** Towersey, near Thame. Thursday to Monday. Celebrating its 50th anniversary with appearances from The Bootleg Beatles, Richard Thompson, Seth Lakeman, and Lau. Includes a children's festival, real ale and cider festival, spoken word events, workshops, films, dances, street performers, local artisan food producers, ice cream, sculpture, craft stalls and more. Noon. £135 (full), £20 (day), £10/£8 (showground). 01629 827016.

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# CakeSport [banburycake.co.uk/sport](http://banburycake.co.uk/sport)

**Sorry United in  
a third defeat**

Slough Town  
(Short 28, Thomas 74) 2  
Banbury Utd  
(Katsoloudi 59) 1

BANBURY United's poor start to the Premier Division season continued with a third straight defeat on Saturday.

George Short put the hosts ahead, but Banbury levelled when Elias Katsoloudi converted Nkosi Mzungwana's cross.

However, Darryl Thomas bagged Slough's winner and just to compound their misery Marvin Martin was sent off on 77 minutes for fouling Johnnie Dyer.

Despite the loss, there was some promise in United's performance, especially in the second half.

United last lost their first three league matches of a season in 2002-03.

That team then embarked on an unbeaten run of 18 matches, aided by the goals of Norman Sylla.

**Team:** Hill, Cray, Mzungwana, Westbrook, Abrahams, Ryan, Evangelinos (Edekuule 57), Martin, Simpson, Katsoloudi (Walcott 63), Vincent-Young (Moromedzi 71). Subs not used: Masri, Oke.

**Attendance:** 312

# Banbury's derby loss

ASTON Rowant's bid to avoid relegation from Division 1 received a timely boost with a three-wicket victory over Oxfordshire rivals Banbury on Saturday.

Skipper Wes Morrick steered his side to success as Rowant passed their target of 188 with just two balls remaining.

After being asked to bat first, Banbury lost Lloyd Sabin early on. A half-century stand between Craig Haupt and Richard West gave them a platform to build, but Haupt's 33 was Banbury's top score as no batsmen could build on their start.

Miles Hammond (3-22) and Adam Muttitt (3-26), who each bowled seven overs, produced good spells for Rowant, who dismissed the visitors off the penultimate ball.

In reply, Tim Morgan and Chris Watling put on 53 for the first wicket, and when they had reached 111-2,

Rowant were in command. However, Ollie Wright then picked up the first of his four wickets to have Karl Penhale caught behind by Jonny Cater.

Hammond was trapped leg before by West, and then Dan Matthews and Hawkes Smith also fell lbw, both to Wright in quick succession.

At 129-6 it seemed that the match had swung in Banbury's favour. However, Morrick joined Richard Cook at the crease and a crucial partnership of 37 set up an exciting finish.

Cook was bowled by Wright, but Morrick led by example and, partnered by Muttitt, managed to end unbeaten on 29 as he steered his side to a win.

The victory sees Rowant move 19 points clear of Harefield, who are second in the relegation zone, with just three matches remaining of the season.



Banbury's Richard West ducks under this delivery from Wes Morrick

## SCORECARD

BANBURY	
L Sabin c Matthews b Morrick	.9
C Haupt b Hammond	.33
R West c Matthews b Hammond	.20
N Hawkes b Hammond	.6
J Cater & b Muttitt	.26
J Lambden b Muttitt	.12
A Blanchard b Kazmi	.16
D Bartlett st Matthews b Muttitt	.15
L Manley b Kazmi	.12
O Wright run out	.5
J Phillips not out	.0
Extras	.34
Total (all out, 49.4 ovs)	.188
<b>Fall:</b> 1-11, 2-67, 3-79, 4-80, 5-113, 6-141, 7-143, 8-170, 9-179.	

ASTON ROWANT	
T Morgan c Cater b Phillips	.30
C Watling c Manley b Blanchard	.27
M Hammond lbw West	.31
K Penhale c Cater b Wright	.19
R Cook b Wright	.25
D Matthews lbw Wright	.1
J Smith lbw Wright	.3
W Morrick not out	.29
A Muttitt not out	.9
Extras	.15
Total (7 wkt, 49.4 ovs)	.189
<b>Fall:</b> 1-53, 2-83, 3-111, 4-120, 5-125, 6-129, 7-166.	
<b>Bowling:</b> Bartlett 5.4-1-19-0, Manley 5-0-22-0, Blanchard 9-2-25-1, Wright 10-0-32-4.	

● Aston Rowant 20pts  
Banbury 7

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Get your Christmas shopping off to a flying start with this overnight break to the hugely popular St Nicholas Christmas Fayre in the heart of historic York. The finest crafts, gifts, food, festive fun, musical entertainment, shops and stalls combine to make this a really memorable weekend.

### Price includes

- Coaching throughout the holiday
- One night's bed and Full English breakfast accommodation at a good hotel within coaching distance of York
- A visit to York's St Nicholas Fayre
- A visit to Leeds
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

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- Visit to Menin Gate
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[www.newmarket.travel/oxs](http://www.newmarket.travel/oxs)

**0844 391 2183 code OXS**

These holidays are organised & operated by Newmarket Promotions Ltd. ABTA V787X. Subject to availability. Single supplements apply. Calls cost 5p per minute.

**ABTA**  
The Travel Association

## STARS with Claire Petulengro



Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

### ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

It is not wise to be wiser than necessary. You think you know everything there is to know about your situation, but the stars are about to prove you wrong as you find yourself having to run around in order to save yourself from looking the fool. Changes you need in the home are given a boost by Mars on Friday. Ring now for details.

### TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

The stars make you the centre of attention, so don't think you can get away with any naughty behaviour, as what you're thinking will be written all over your face before you've even done it! Some of your signs are calling time on the relationships which aren't working. Give me a ring now to better understand your family and friends.

### GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

You are the maker of your own fortune this week, so don't think that you have to rely on everyone else, or you'll be let down. Signing paperwork can help you to make something which was casual, official at last. Aries help you to take your career up to the next level as their element of fire gives you a way in. Ring now so I can reveal all.

### CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

A problem can be turned into a challenge, which in turn can become an opportunity for you this week. Remember your strengths and use them to help you deal with what's ahead. Time spent with someone from your past helps you rekindle the strengths and abilities you have. Call now to hear why it's worth doing overtime this month.

### LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

This week, you seem to be getting a much fairer deal than you have so far this month. You realise with ease who is there to help you and who is there to use you for their own means. Accidental meetings can change the course of your life and can also put the smile back on your face. Give me a ring now to hear who can't get you off their mind.

### VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Education is well starred and if you have an exam or test this week, then you have the backing of the stars to do well at it. A run in with someone you fell out with when you last saw them can go in your favour if you keep grace to the fore. Give me a call now to hear why it's worth accepting celebration invites and nights out.

### PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Work is taking its toll on you at the moment and if you find yourself burning the candle at both ends then stop and ask for help. Not even you can do everything my friend. Remember Pisces that it is a far wiser person who asks for help than one who carries on regardless. Phone now to hear why I want you to take drastic action in love.

### LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Taking the simple option when addressing your problems this week can lead to the most stress free time for you. This is a great week to formulate a new game plan for your career. You'll find it easy to meet with those who think the same as you and business deals made now have the power to prove lasting. Phone now for hot news on relationships.

### SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Self expansion is evident in your stars and if you're not spreading your wings in business then you'll be investing your finances in a better base or possibly more space for you and your close ones. Arguments with family this weekend must be reined in. You only know half the story. Call now to hear how Saturn blesses new relationships.

### GEMINI

Sep 22-Dec 21

Try to find humour in any setbacks this weekend as it can help you to find the help you'll need to fix the problem. Losing your cool will only see you left standing alone. The home proves expensive as you have to pay for things you may not feel the benefit of in an obvious way. Phone now to hear how long distance travel is possible soon.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Try to find humour in any setbacks this weekend as it can help you to find the help you'll need to fix the problem. Losing your cool will only see you left standing alone. The home proves expensive as you have to pay for things you may not feel the benefit of in an obvious way. Phone now to hear how long distance travel is possible soon.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

There's an air of excitement in your personal life. You start to relax and enjoy yourself rather than over-analysing, as was previously the case. A better understanding of a younger person's views helps you to accommodate their needs and, in turn, for them to compromise for you. Ring to hear why you must not play games in love now.

### PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Work is taking its toll on you at the moment and if you find yourself burning the candle at both ends then stop and ask for help. Not even you can do everything my friend. Remember Pisces that it is a far wiser person who asks for help than one who carries on regardless. Phone now to hear why I want you to take drastic action in love.

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Two seater sofa, similar brown leather, 3 years old, good clean condition, must sell!

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COUPON: just fill in the form...

Coupons max 20 words. Only 1 item per coupon. No photographs.

**FREE ADS are for PRIVATE ADVERTISERS ONLY**

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Post or take your coupon to the following office:

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Remapunk Town, Disney Mead,  
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\*We cannot accept cars/motorcycles, livestock, any form of second-hand safety equipment, private addresses in advertisements, fruit machines & firearms.

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Text a message to **OXADS PLUS AD**

Simply type OXADS PLUS AD followed by a space then the text for your advert (max 100 characters). Send the text message to 09065. Your service usually takes a few seconds dependent on network congestion. Any delays should be checked by your service provider. No guarantee is given that your advert will appear for 3 nights and within 3 days of receiving the text. All calls placed on your order will receive a message on receipt of your advert which will be charged at 15p/min + your networks operators charge for the text.

**FREE ADS**  
The FREE WAY to sell unwanted items

## 1 ARTICLES FOR SALE

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**SILVER** DAB FM tuner, CW, INS and REM £45 01295 254979 after 6pm

**SPEAKER** Cabinets x 2, 4 x 6", H36" x D12" x W11½" £20. 01865 776685 evenings

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**AVENT** Express 6 bottle electric steam steriliser/bottle and baby food warmer, 6 x 260ml, 3 x 125ml bottles, 12 teats, full working order, good condition £12. 01295 253640

**MAMAS & Papas** Sleepsafe DeLuxe spring interior mattress, outer, zip-off machine washable waterproof cover £30 (paid £90). 01295 253640

### ► Furniture & Furnishings

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### ► Toys & Games

**DISNEY** Princess Enchanted Tales, pink mega bloks chest, 86 pieces, various sizes/colours £10. 01295 253640

**DISNEY** Princess Enchanted Tales pink Mega Bloks chest, 86 chunky pieces, various sizes/colours £10. 01295 253640

### ► TV, Video & DVD

**JVC** 28" digital colour widescreen TV, stand, 2 shelves, remote control, good condition, full working order £50ono 01295 251778

### ► Garden Tools & Equipment

**SOLID** Wood potting bench with shelves and drawer, unused, cost £100 new, accept £50. 01295 255235

### ► Heating & Fireplaces

**LARGE** Log effect electric fire, excellent condition, 2 bar, 2 warm air £20. 01295 262536

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**E:** [p.g.southall@btinternet.com](mailto:p.g.southall@btinternet.com)  
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#### Price includes

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 [www.newmarket.travel/oxs11544](http://www.newmarket.travel/oxs11544)

 **0844 391 2183** quoting code **OXS**

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 ABTA The Association of British Travel Agents

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8am - 10am £10 • 10am onwards £5

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**NEWBURY RACECOURSE**  
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  - (ii) Make any alteration it considers necessary or desirable in an advertisement and to require artwork or copy to be amended to meet its approval.
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8. The deadline for cancellation is the same deadline as the space booking, after this time no cancellation will be accepted for the following publications:  
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11. The Advertiser's artwork, film and all other property is held at the Advertiser's risk and should be insured by him against loss or damage from whatever cause. The Publisher reserves the right to destroy without notice all artwork, film and other property, which has been in his custody for six months from the date of its last appearance unless the Advertiser has given instructions to the contrary and has obtained the Publisher's written acknowledgement that the Publisher has received such instructions.
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16. Advertisement orders issued by an advertising agency as a principal must be on the agency's official form. When copy instructions not constituting an official order are issued, they shall be clearly marked 'Copy instructions - not an order'.
17. Users of the computerised artwork delivery system, via ISDN, must before transmission obtain a unique reference number from the Publisher in order that their artwork can be identified upon receipt. The Publisher will not be responsible for errors occasioned by the subsequent receipt of artwork without any such identification.
18. Mail Order and One Day Sale Advertisements. These types of advertisements are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies. All such advertisements must be pre-paid and copy submitted at least 7 working days before publication. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse to publish any such advertisement containing copy which we find not acceptable and will not be responsible for any costs incurred by the Advertiser or his Agents, either before or after publication.
19. **SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT.**  
No advertisement which indicates or can reasonably be understood as indicating an intention to discriminate on the grounds of sex (e.g. by inviting invitations from only male or only females) may be accepted unless exempted from the requirements of the Sex Discrimination Act. A statement must be made at the time the advertisement is placed, saying which of the exceptions in the Act is considered to apply.
- 19b. **RACE RELATIONS ACT.**  
The Publisher reserves the right not to accept recruitment advertisements which request a photograph or hints of discrimination on racial grounds in support of an application.
20. **TRADE DESCRIPTIONS ACT.**  
All advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the Advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.
21. Business Opportunities Advertisements are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies and will appear in the Classified section under the appropriate heading. Readers are recommended to take professional advice before entering into any obligations.
22. Dating Agencies and advertisements for companions are accepted at the sole discretion of the Advertisement Manager or his/her deputies and will appear in the Classified section under the appropriate heading. Readers are requested to consider very carefully and make the fullest enquiries before giving any personal details.
23. All orders from Advertising Agencies are governed by the standard conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. The Director's personal guarantee given to the Newspaper Society at the time of recognition is deemed to be part of these conditions of acceptance.
24. All group advertising rates (except Classified Lineage) are subject to a 0.1 per cent Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) surcharge, payable by advertisers to help finance the self regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
25. If an Advertiser in receipt of series or volume discount cancels before fulfilling the terms for the discount, the Publisher reserves the right to make a surcharge up to the full published rates for the type of advertisement.
26. The placing of an order for the insertion of an advertisement shall amount to an acceptance of the above conditions and any conditions stipulated on an Advertiser's order form or elsewhere shall be void insofar as they are in conflict with them.

# Cake Motorring

[banburycake.co.uk/cars](http://banburycake.co.uk/cars)

## Slinkier than ever

By David Duffy

**I**T IS rare for a convertible to look as good with the roof up as it does with the roof down. BMW's new 4 Series is one of the few with real road presence.

Lower, wider and longer than the outgoing 3 Series Convertible, it looks for all the world like a sleek, sleek coupé.

But a gentle pull on a button between the front seats launches the three-piece retractable metal hard-top roof into the air and within 20 seconds it stows itself away in the boot, leaving an even slinkier vehicle.

The dimensions of the new car differ significantly from the outgoing BMW 3 Series Convertible and its shorter overhangs, long bonnet and set back passenger compartment deliver an altogether more athletic stance.

But enough of the looks, BMW has built its reputation as a maker of sharp handling, overtly sporting, luxurious driver's cars and this vehicle does not disappoint.

The chassis of the new BMW 4 Series Convertible is based on that of the new BMW 4 Series Coupé and springs, damping and axle characteristics have all been tailored to ensure an engaging, dynamic yet comfortable driving experience, whether the roof is up or down.

The M Sport suspension, fitted on the 3.0-litre, straight six petrol engine-powered test car, can also be ordered separately for other models in the range. It consists of a firmer spring/damper set-up, stiffer anti-roll bars and tweaked suspension settings.

BMW also offers the M Sport braking system, which has aluminium fixed callipers and



**SLEEK:** Whether roof up or roof down, this BMW packs a punch

### Auto facts

**Model:** BMW 435i Convertible M Sport 306  
**Price:** £45,480  
**Insurance group:** 39 (1-50)  
**Fuel consumption (Combined):** 33.6mpg  
**Top speed:** 155mph  
**Length:** 463.8cm/182.6in  
**Width:** 201.7cm/79.4in  
**Luggage capacity:** 7.8 cu ft  
**Fuel tank capacity:** 13.2 gallons/60 litres  
**CO2 emissions:** 195g/km  
**Warranty:** 3 years/unlimited mileage

generously sized discs. Alternatively, there is the Adaptive M Sport Suspension option which adjusts the damper mapping to the road surface and driving situation. You can also use a 'Drive Performance Control' switch to vary the basic suspension settings between the more comfortable and the sportier.

Inside, the controls are wrapped around the driver cockpit-style with a sports steering wheel, circular instruments in black panel look and the freestanding flat screen iDrive monitor. In the rear, the bench design has two individual seats, fitted with removable head restraints, with cup holders and a storage tray for small items between them.

The convertible also has plenty of space in the boot, even when the retractable hard-top is lowered. With the optional through-loading system a flat and level storage area can be used when the backrest of the rear bench seat is folded down.

With prices starting at about £37,000, there is no shortage of choice with the option of two petrol and one diesel engine and five trim levels – SE, Sport, Modern, Luxury and M Sport – giving plenty of scope for personalisation.



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### Wheelsanddeals

■ Vauxhall is to offer drivers between 18 and 20 one year's insurance cover for a one-off payment of £99. To qualify, drivers need to opt for one of Vauxhall's Corsa Excite or Limited Edition models. The car maker is teaming up with insurance provider ingenie, and each car is fitted with 'black box' technology which monitors driving style, including speed, acceleration, braking and cornering. Colin Igoea, retail operator at Bridge Motors, Banbury, said: "This offer is groundbreaking news for young drivers, some of whom could still be paying upwards of £2,000 for insurance when they're 18."

■ SAT NAV systems might prove popular, but many drivers still like an up-to-date atlas in the car. The new 2015 AA Great Britain Road Atlas range includes seven versions with differing scales, size and bindings all fully revised for 2015. Priced from £9.99, AA atlases contain information including city, town and port plans, and updated static speed camera locations with speed limits.

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Hartwell Kidlington Ford, Oxford Motor Park, Langford Lane, Kidlington,  
OX5 1FH 0844 225 4272

<http://www.hartwell.co.uk/ford>



Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for Ford Car range: urban 41.5-48.7 (5.8-6.8), extra urban 60.1-67.3 (4.2-4.7), combined 53.3-57.6 (4.9-5.3). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emission 115-139g/km.

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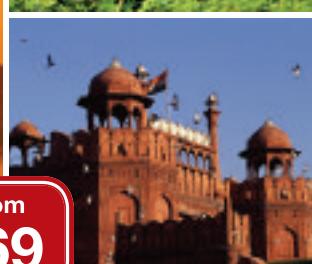
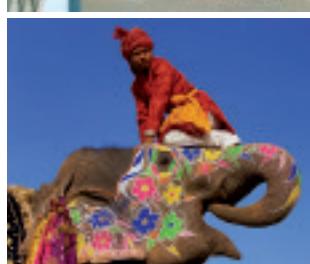
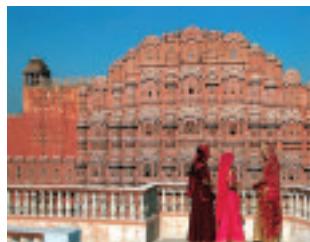
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

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Agra is known as the 'City of Love', its greatest treasure the world-renowned *Taj Mahal*, one of the planet's most recognisable landmarks. Other highlights include Agra Fort, the onion-domed *Jama Masjid* mosque and the nearby tomb of Akbar the Great at Sikandra.

Explore Jaipur, the fabled 'Pink City', with its 'Palace of the Winds', its colourful bazaars and famous Amber Fort, the latter reached atop an elephant's back or by jeep. Ranthambore is, of course, a highlight of the tour and said to be an inspiration for some of Rudyard Kipling's 'Jungle Book' stories.

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